IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing replaces all prior listings and versions of the pending claims. Any claim that is cancelled and any subject matter deleted from a claim are effected without prejudice.

1. - 37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) A sustained release pharmaceutical composition in oral dosage form having a core, said sustained release pharmaceutical composition comprising, in the core thereof, a mixture comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a drug, a sustained release carrier in an effective amount to retard the release of the drug from said composition when placed in an aqueous system, a water insoluble or partially water insoluble cellulose, maltodextrin and optionally a lubricating effective amount of a lubricant, wherein the weight ratio of cellulose to maltodextrin ranges from about 50:1 to about 1:50.

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 38 wherein the sustained release polymer is a mixture of cellulose ether and xanthan gum.

41. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 40 wherein the weight ratio of cellulose ether to xanthan gum ranges from about 1:0.1 to about 1:2.

42. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 40 wherein the cellulose ether is hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose.

43. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 38 wherein the weight ratio of cellulose to maltodextrin in the core ranges from about 20:1 to about 1:20.

44. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 43 wherein the weight ratio of cellulose to maltodextrin in the core ranges from about 9:1 to about 1:9.

45. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 38 wherein the drug is metformin, metronidazole or carbamazepine or mesalamine.

46. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 38 wherein the water insoluble or partially water insoluble cellulose is starch or microcrystalline cellulose.

47. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 46 wherein the water insoluble or partially water insoluble cellulose is microcrystalline cellulose.

48. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 47 wherein the microcrystalline cellulose is silicified microcrystalline cellulose.

49. - 53. (Cancelled)

54. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 38 wherein the sum of the maltodextrin and the cellulose in the core ranges from about 5% to about 95% by weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

55. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 54 wherein the sum of the maltodextrin and the cellulose in the core ranges from about 10% to about 60% by weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

56. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 55 wherein the sum of the maltodextrin and the cellulose in the core ranges from about 20% to about 50% by weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

57. - 58. (Cancelled)

59. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 38 wherein the solid unit dosage oral form is a pellet, tablet or capsule.

60. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 38 wherein the sustained release carrier is a hydrophilic polymer.

61. - 62. (Cancelled)

63. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 43 wherein the cellulose is microcrystalline cellulose.

64. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 44 wherein the cellulose is microcrystalline cellulose.

65. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 55 wherein the cellulose is microcrystalline cellulose.

66. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 56 wherein the cellulose is microcrystalline cellulose.

67. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 63 wherein the microcrystalline cellulose is silicified microcrystalline cellulose.

68. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 64 wherein the microcrystalline cellulose is silicified microcrystalline cellulose.

69. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 65 wherein the microcrystalline cellulose is silicified microcrystalline cellulose.

70. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 66 wherein the microcrystalline cellulose is silicified microcrystalline cellulose.

71. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 60 wherein the hydrophilic polymer is a hydrophilic gum, hydrophilic cellulose ether or polyalkylene oxide.

72. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 60 wherein the hydrophilic polymer is acacia, gum tragacanth, locust bean gum, guar gum, karaya gum, agar, pectin, carrageen, xanthan gum, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, soluble alginate, methyl cellulose, sodium carboxymethyl-cellulose, carboxy polymethylene or a combination thereof.

73. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 72 wherein the hydrophilic polymer is xanthan gum, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose or a mixture of xanthan gum and hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose.